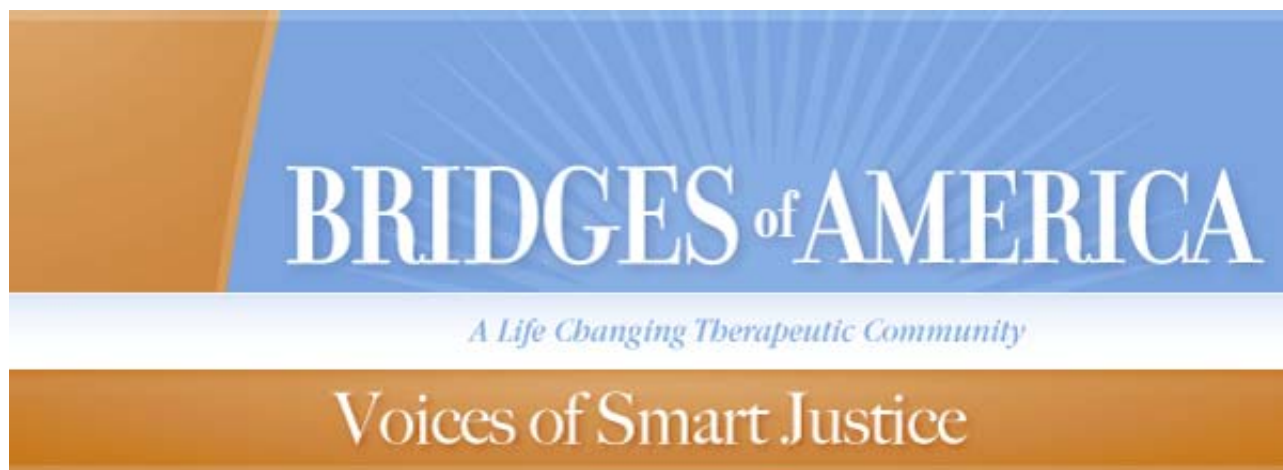


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## November 2014

*We need to remember across generations that there is as much to learn as there is to teach.*

- Gloria Steinem



I had an awesome experience last month at the [42nd Annual Women's Achievement Awards](#) in Orlando, Florida. This event was presented by the Women's Executive Council. It was thrilling to see the many incredible women who are reaching out to teach, touch, and improve the lives of people, as we strive to do every day at Bridges of America.

I was humbled to be the honored woman among the nominees in the Nonprofit Organization category. I don't say winner because they were all winners. To be in the presence of women who are making a difference in the lives of others was inspiring and educational.

It is always rejuvenating to spend an evening with women who are achieving at the top of their game and mentoring women who are just beginning. That evening, ten women were honored for their work in various categories. But another twenty women received scholarships to help them on their journey toward achieving their goals.



As part of our sponsorship, two women received scholarships in our name. Let me tell you a bit about them and how hard they are working to realize their dreams:

Majoring in Psychology at Rollins College, Chantelle Cade, while carrying a full educational load, tutors French at Valencia College, has studied abroad and helped renovate a medieval water mill for a community. This young woman plans to pursue a master's degree in mental health counseling and obtain certification as a music therapist.

As an Elementary Education major at UCF, Evelyn Guzman graduated high school with high honors and then moved to Florida. After working full time and earning her AAS in Computer Technology, a real estate license and an AA in Elementary Education, she is currently fulfilling a student teaching internship. Evelyn will be the first of her family to receive a college degree.

I am so proud that we are able to assist Chantelle and Evelyn and I wish them all the best.

More importantly, being honored by the Women's Executive Council provided an opportunity to highlight the work of Bridges of America and to share stories of the commitment, work and passion that all our staff and volunteers demonstrate every day. Diana Larsen, who works with us through our partner Gray Robinson, nominated me and I am very grateful to her for this honor.

At Bridges of America, we have the responsibility to teach and assist others as they transition their lives, their experiences and move towards their new goals. It's not always easy and not everyone we work with is as motivated as the women I met that night.

Often, the best work happens when we are challenged to succeed. Our inmates and clients are struggling against incredible odds and our job is to help them restore their lives. I'm so proud of each and every member of our workforce for the leadership and commitment you show to those in our care every day.

Challenge yourself to succeed every day!

Sincerely,



President and CEO